

EPCAMR



Eastern PA Coalition for Abandoned Mine Reclamation January 2010 Progress Report

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Highlights:

- Downloaded 14 GIS files, printed 26 maps and 6 sets of statistics for EPCAMR Partners
- Attended a Mine Pool Mapping Mtg. with SRBC, Hazle Creek Conference Call, EPCAMR Board Mtg., DCNR Greening Grants Webinar, 2010 Watershed Summit Conference Call, a Schuylkill QHU Mtg., and conducted an AMD tour
- Updated www.orangewaternetwork.org, www.earthconservancy.org & EPCAMR's Facebook

Education and Outreach:

- Created the EPCAMR Program Manager monthly report for December, collected staff reports and posted them online at www.orangewaternetwork.org. Aided Executive Director in preparing the reimbursement to the PA DEP 319 Program.
- Followed up with a professor from Kutztown University, Laura Sherrod, as suggested by Wayne Lehman, Schuylkill Conservation District (SCD). Laura is a geology teacher and was looking for water quality data to work into a hydrogeology lab for her students.
- Prepared for and made a presentation about the Mine Pool Mapping Initiative for executive staff at the Susquehanna River Basin Commission (SRBC).
- Met with Tom Clark, SRBC, to discuss an Anthracite Strategy and setup a stakeholder meeting. Obtained a room at Penn State Hazleton Campus for the meeting in February.
- Aided Jackie Dickman with the Earth Conservancy website. Jackie has been working on overhauling the entire website using Net Objects Fusion. Attempted to help create a slideshow intro to initially show some of the reclamation work done by the Earth Conservancy.
- Prepared minutes from the last EPCAMR board meeting and sent a reminder to the EPCAMR board to be sure of a quorum for the meeting.
- EPCAMR staff sat in on a conference call with a representative from Weatherly Borough, PA DEP Bureau of Abandoned Mine Reclamation (BAMR), and Alder Run Engineering to talk about the plan to begin monitoring Hazle Creek and AMD discharges within the watershed.
- EPCAMR staff prepared for, attended and took minutes at the 1st quarter 2010 EPCAMR board meeting.
- Followed up with a member from the Shamokin Creek Restoration Alliance (SCRA) asking if there was information about iron sediments being used in concrete. Specifically her question revolved around the possibility of using iron oxide as an anti-corrosive for reinforcement materials inside concrete structures such as bridges. Dug up a presentation from the 2004 Resource Recovery Symposium in Johnstown which contained all the pertinent information.
- EPCAMR staff met with Janice Leiby, Wilkes-Barre Vo-Tech Horticultural Department to discuss a grant that was received from the Future Farmers of America (FFA) to continue to develop the memorial and gardens at the Avondale Historical Mine Disaster Site.
- EPCAMR staff hosted a PA DCNR Greening Grants webinar and conference call at our new Technical Assistance Center (TAC).

- Participated in a conference call to prepare for the 2010 Watershed Summit with representatives from the Foundation for PA Watersheds (FPW), the Western Pennsylvania Conservancy (WPC), and others.
- Attended a Schuylkill Qualified Hydrologic Unit (QHU) plan meeting to aide in the development of a plan to be able to continue to use the Surface Mining Control and Reclamation Act (SMCRA) funds for Priority 1, 2 & 3 features in the watershed. Took notes and produced a fact sheet for the planning process for staff at the FPW.
- Spoke with Roger Hornberger about the completion of certain draft chapters and what is needed to complete other chapters for the Mine Pool Mapping report.

Technical Assistance:

- Dismantled and returned a desk that was brought to the EPCAMR office mistakenly from the Luzerne Conservation District (LCD) office. Replaced the desk with a double desk that was found in the Earth Conservancy storage room.
- Met with Roger Hornberger to aide in writing the report for the Mine Pool Mapping Initiative. Printed all 16 USGS I-Series Investigation maps for Roger to aide in writing a chapter on geology for the southern anthracite field.
- EPCAMR staff worked on an update to the Mine Pool Mapping Initiative to find a way to best use the remaining funds as the project nears a completion in July.
- Added a Watershed Finder App to the EPCAMR website. The app, provided by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), finds the watershed based on an area code entered into the search field. Added an article to the EPCAMR website to advertise a call for presentations for the National Association of Abandoned Mine Land Programs (NAAML) Conference from September 19-22 in Scranton.
- EPCAMR staff looked for files for the 2008 DEP Environmental Education Grant to provide information on payment to the LCD. A letter from the LCD district manager stated that EPCAMR owes this money to the LCD.
- An internet search for mining geology maps resulted with a listing of maps and reports available from the MS Book and Mineral Company. This mentioned at least 2 more I-Series maps that are available for the Wyoming Basin in the northern anthracite field. These maps were housed at the BAMR office in Wilkes-Barre and will aide in mapping mine pools in the region.
- EPCAMR staff prepared a reimbursement and report for the Hicks Creek Natural Stream Channel Design (NSCD) project.
- Deleted another 2,700 bogus web link suggestions on www.orangewaternetwork.org. These had built up over the past month, slowing down the website and limiting administration abilities. Contacted Elite Hosting Service for technical support on the issue.
- Met with Peter Haentjens, Eastern Middle Anthracite Region Recovery (EMARR) Inc., to discuss possibility for Geothermal and Hydroelectric power development and map details on the Jeddo Tunnel Discharge and the area downstream.
- Downloaded the new 2010 PA DEP GIS data available on the Pennsylvania Spatial Data Access (PASDA) Website in preparation for developing a new version of the Reclaimed Abandoned Mine Reclamation Inventory System (RAMLIS) Tool.
- EPCAMR staff conducted a field tour and sampling event at the Jeddo Tunnel for the Berwick Middle School students and staff and staff of the Columbia County Conservation District. EPCAMR staff used the iFlip video camera to take video footage and posted it to EPCAMR's Facebook site.
- Provided a 2010 update to the Lycoming County Chesapeake Bay Tributary Strategy Plan as requested by the Lycoming County Conservation District. Provided maps and statistics which compare to the statistics provided in 2005.
- Ran into a perceived glitch in the number of stream miles between the DEP Historic Stream list (formerly the 305(b) and 303(d) lists) and 2010 Integrated Lists of Streams. In Lycoming

County alone, there were an additional 300 miles of streams. After a call to the PA DEP Bureau of Watershed Management (BWM), it was explained that the layer was based off the National Hydrography Dataset (NHD) which was drawn at a higher level of detail. The Historic Streams List was abandoned in 2004 for the new layer and at the time the dataset was approximately 90% complete. There are also a few other changes to the layer that artificially raises the number of stream miles such as buried streams and a double stream line around islands and braids.

- Replaced the arm on the entrance to the EPCAMR office. The old arm was broken and slammed the door quickly. The new arm works properly again.
- Reinstalled Windows 7 on the EPCAMR TAC Laptop to fix a problem with missing windows features that could not be reinstalled. This problem was not allowing some software to be installed.
- Answered questions about the Newmeister Drift Discharge and the associated mine pool. This mine pool sits on the division between the Delaware River and Susquehanna River Watersheds. The mine water discharges at ~500 gallon per minute (gpm) on the surface for about a mile and then disappears back underground into the mines under the Hechersville Valley and eventually appearing back on the surface at the Pine Knot Tunnel discharge. Depending on where the majority of water is diverted from, there is a possibility to clean this water, divert it back to the Susquehanna River watershed via the Swatara Creek and claim it as new water. Created a RAMLIS investigation to explain details on these problem areas. There is also an additional mine pool about a mile to the south that has similar characteristics and has a bigger discharge that currently goes into a reservoir.